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Lillian Fund Women Helping Women in Need

In 1999 a group of committed women got together to brainstorm about ways to engage Jewish women in the Greater Hartford community involved in their philanthropy. From these early discussions the Lillian Fund emerged. The fund is an endowment dedicated to projects and programs that benefit women and their families in need. It is held at the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Hartford.

What is novel about the Lillian Fund is that anyone who makes an annual gift of \$100 and more is eligible to vote on the grant that year. The idea is to get as many women (and men!) involved so everyone can participate in the grant making process and be involved in where their charitable dollars go in the community.

Today the fund has reached \$138,000 and continues to grow. In the past, Lillian Fund grants have been awarded to the Jewish Family Services of Greater Hartford for counseling services to victims of domestic abuse provided through its Family Violence Program and to help educate Rabbis and Jewish educators about identifying domestic violence in the community.

During the past two years the Lillian Fund grants have been awarded to programs in Afula Israel: the “*Girls Can Do It- Through Sports*” project supporting sports and educational activities for teenaged girls from distressed households, and the *Club for “At Risk” Teenage Girls* in Afula, promoting communication between mothers and their teenage daughters to address some of the educational and social problems their teenagers face.

Many people honor a special woman in their lives with a gift to the Lillian Fund. The woman being honored receives an attractive certificate and the ability to vote on the grant.

For more information about the Lillian Fund or to make a contribution, please call the Jewish Community Foundation office at (860) 523-7460.